

REMARKS

In the Final Office Action of January 12, 2005, claims 5, 9, 14 and 17 and 19-21 were allowed and claims 1-4, 6-8, 10-13 and 15 were rejected. Of these rejected claims, claims 1 and 10 were independent claims with claims 2-4 and 6-8 depending from claim 1 and claims 11-13 and 15 depending from claim 10.

Pursuant to the above amendments, independent claims 1 and 10 have been canceled and the dependency of their respective dependent claims has been amended to depend from previously allowed claims. Specifically, the dependency of claims 2-4 and 6-8 has been amended to depend from allowed claim 5 and the dependency of claims 11-13 and 15 has been amended to depend from allowed claim 9. These amendments do not enlarge the scope of any claims since the amended claims have merely been amended to depend from previously allowed claims. Such amendments were necessitated by the rejection of the independent claims in the claim series and the cancellation of the rejected independent claims.

Accordingly, it is submitted that the above amendments are proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116.

In view of the cancellation of independent claims 1 and 10 and the above amendments, all claims currently in the application have either been allowed or depend from allowed claims. Accordingly, the present application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

In the event the Examiner has any questions or anything further is needed to formally allow the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the Undersigned in order to expedite the matter.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date:

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